

To FCC Staff,

Digital wireless telephones must be made compatible with hearing aids.

I use BTE aids and I could not use a borrowed Nokia telephone to expedite a business transaction because of static interference.

Later, when I discussed the problem with Nokia and also Radio Shack sales people they shrugged their shoulders and said nothing could be done. Nokia does offer an induction loop attachment at an outrageous price of \$99, which is usually more than what Nokia charges for the phone itself. Motorola invested in a company (Hatis) making silhouette attachments that can be used with cell phones so as to skirt the issue, but the attachments are expensive also. Further, any attachment is encumbering and causes significant delay in making or receiving phone calls.

Given the generous offers of free digital wireless phones of every style and color that one sees in advertizements for cell phone subscriptions it appears the phones are relatively low in manufacturing cost. Given the enormous marketing effort by manufacturers and the widespread, enthusiastic acceptance by the public it appears the manufacturers could modify the phones to make them hearing aid compatible, charge a few dollars more to recoup R&D and manufacturing costs and still enjoy a widespread market. The manufacturers claim the added costs would be prohibitive, but I don't believe them. My impression from reading all the advertizements is that service subscription costs, not the cost of the phones, is the barrier to further market penetration in the U.S.

Please make a rule requiring that all digital wireless telephones be compatible with hearing aids.